



Security Council

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Letter dated 20 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach herewith the communiqué of the African Union Peace and Security Council of its 691st meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 12 June 2017 (see annex).

The Council stressed that "the overall positive evolution of the situation in Darfur is consistent with the findings of the visit undertaken by the Council to Khartoum and Darfur from 15 to 18 May 2017".

Having brought this matter to your attention, I would appreciate if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Omer Dahab Fadl **Mohamed**
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 20 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Communiqué

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 691st meeting, held on 12 June 2017, adopted the following decision on the situation in Darfur, Sudan, and the activities of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID):

The Council,

1. **Takes note** of the joint special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic review of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) (S/2017/437), which was undertaken from 5 to 17 March 2017, as well as of the introductory remarks by Ambassador Smail Chergui, the Commissioner for Peace and Security, and the presentation provided by the Joint Special Representative of UNAMID, Ambassador Kingsley Mamabolo. The Council also **takes note** of the statements made by the representatives of Sudan and Egypt, in its capacity as an African member of the Security Council, as well as those of permanent members of the Security Council, namely, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America;

2. **Recalls** its previous communiqués and press statements on the situation in Darfur, including communiqués PSC/PR/COMM.(DCV) and PSC/PR/COMM.(DCLXXIII), containing the decisions adopted at its 605th and 673rd meetings, held on 13 June 2016 and 29 March 2017, respectively. The Council **also recalls** Security Council resolution 2296 (2016) of 29 June 2016;

3. **Reiterates its appreciation** to the UNAMID leadership, in particular the Joint Special Representative, the Force Commander and the Police Commissioner, as well as to the Mission's personnel, for their dedication and contribution to the promotion of peace, security, stability and reconciliation in Darfur. The Council **notes with appreciation** the efforts made in the implementation of the UNAMID mandate, in particular with respect to the protection of civilians. In this regard, the Council **pays tribute** to the UNAMID personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty for the cause of peace in Darfur. The Council **also conveys messages of condolences** to the Government and the people of Nigeria in honour of the peacekeeper who lost his life recently in the line of duty;

4. **Commends** the Government of Sudan for its cooperation with the joint strategic review team and its constructive approach to the review of UNAMID. The Council **welcomes and notes with satisfaction** the outcome document of the 23rd meeting of the Tripartite Coordination Mechanism, held on 22 May 2017, and the spirit of cooperation that characterized the deliberations, as well as the commitment to strengthen coordination between the Government of the Sudan, the African Union and the United Nations towards sustainable peace and security in Darfur. The Council **also welcomes** the report of the joint working group of 26 February 2017 on the UNAMID exit strategy, which acknowledged an improvement in the security and humanitarian situation in Darfur,

5. **Notes** the significant decrease in hostilities between the Government of Sudan and the rebel forces, as well as the declaration by the Government, the Sudan Liberation Army/Mini Minawi and the Justice and Equality Movement/Gibril of unilateral ceasefires. The Council **commends** the steps taken by the Government and the Darfur State Authorities towards the creation of a safe and secure

environment and **further applauds** progress made to secure the Chad-Sudan border, as a result of the political commitment of the two countries and the work of the Joint Chad/Sudan Border Monitoring Force, established in 2010;

6. **Strongly condemns** the recent incursion of armed groups into Darfur and **remains concerned** over alleged claims of use of neighbouring countries as launching grounds for such acts. The Council **further calls upon** the Government of National Unity and the rebel movements to pursue the path of direct political talks for a durable solution to the Darfur conflict;

7. **Notes** the important steps taken by the Government of Sudan to advance the Darfur political process, including the incorporation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, which contains critical provisions that address the root causes of the conflict, into the Constitution. The Council **further notes** the conclusion of the national dialogue process on 10 October 2016 with the adoption of a national document, as well as the steps taken towards its implementation, including the appointment of a Prime Minister on 1 March 2017. The Council **commends** the subsequent formation of a Government of National Unity, as well as the signing, by the Government of Sudan, and by the Sudan Liberation Army/Mini Minawi and the Justice and Equality Movement/Gibril, in March and August 2016, respectively, of the road map agreement proposed by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel;

8. **Stresses** that the overall positive evolution of the situation is consistent with the findings of the visit undertaken by the Council to Khartoum and Darfur from 15 to 18 May 2017. The Council **expresses its appreciation** to the Government of Sudan for the assistance availed to its delegation during the visit;

9. **Underlines** that, in spite of the significant progress made, a number of challenges remain that may impede the speedy restoration of sustainable peace, security, stability and reconciliation, as well as socioeconomic recovery. In particular, the Council **notes** that the security situation remains fragile, mainly due to the continued activities of armed militias, the proliferation of weapons and the prevalence of acts of banditry and criminality, as well as the continued occurrence of intercommunal conflicts closely linked to the root causes of the conflict. The Council **further notes, with great concern**, that such challenges exist within a context of inadequate capacity and effectiveness of the rule of law institutions. Furthermore, the Council **condemns** the recent attacks perpetrated by Darfuri armed movements in East and Northern Darfur. The Council **reiterates** the fact that only an inclusive and participatory dialogue can ensure sustainable peace, security and peaceful coexistence in Darfur;

10. **Notes with concern** that, in spite of the improvement of the security situation in the past months, a total of 2.7 million people are displaced, of whom 2.1 million are in need of humanitarian assistance, and that 300,000 Sudanese refugees are located in neighbouring Chad. In this regard, the Council **appeals** to the African Union member States, and to the international community at large, to continue to extend their support to the population in need in Darfur;

11. **Underlines** the relevance of the new strategic orientation for UNAMID as proposed in the special report, namely, a two-pronged approach combining peacebuilding in the areas outside the Jebel Marra area, where there has not been fighting for an extended period of time, and peacekeeping and emergency attention in the Greater Jebel Marra area, due to the insecurity prevailing in the areas, which is preventing internally displaced persons from voluntarily returning to their homes;

12. **Endorses** the recommendations of the strategic review of UNAMID, as contained in the special report, including on issues relating to:

(a) The establishment of the Jebel Marra Task Force and the reconfiguration of UNAMID in two phases of six months each, resulting in the reduction of the strength of the military component by 44 per cent, and that of the police component by 30 per cent, the closure of 11 team sites in the first phase and the withdrawal of the military component from another 7 team sites in the second phase, it being understood that the Mission shall retain adequate and mobile quick-response capabilities to be able to respond to security challenges as they arise;

(b) The effective implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, including a comprehensive assessment of its provisions, with a view to ensuring a sustained focus on the outstanding provisions of the agreement, as well as continued support to the efforts of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel towards an all-inclusive political process linked to the national dialogue and a national constitutional reform process;

(c) The protection of civilians, with a lead role for the aforementioned Jebel Marra Task Force, working closely with the humanitarian country team, while in the rest of Darfur, efforts to protect civilians will revolve around livelihood issues and police/rule of law capacities;

(d) Intercommunal conflict, with priority given to those conflicts that have the potential to cause the highest number of casualties and derail the national political processes;

13. **Looks forward** to the full cooperation of the Government of Sudan with UNAMID, as well as with the African Union Commission and the United Nations Secretariat, to facilitate the effective implementation of the recommendations of the review as approved by the Council and the Security Council. In this respect, the Council **underscores** the imperative need for the Government of Sudan to ensure sustained cooperation with UNAMID in the discharge of its mandate, including the respect of UNAMID freedom of movement and the timely issuance of visas and customs clearances. The Council **notes with satisfaction** the progress made in this respect over the past months and **underscores** the need to reinforce this cooperation during this critical transitional period;

14. **Strongly urges** the Government of Sudan, working with UNAMID and the United Nations country team, to ensure that it fills the security and humanitarian vacuum that may arise out of the withdrawal of UNAMID, in order to consolidate the progress made on the ground;

15. **Stresses** the need for building the capacities of the Sudanese defence and security institutions and for the Government of Sudan to initiate the security sector reform process based on the national context, in line with the African Union Policy Framework on Security Sector Reform, endorsed by the Assembly of Heads of State and Governments of the African Union (Assembly/AU/Dec.472(XX)) during its 20th ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa in January 2013;

16. **Expresses its deep concern** over the widespread proliferation of weapons in the areas of return of internally displaced persons and **urges** the Government of Sudan to urgently implement its disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme in order to disarm all armed militias, movements and civilians. Furthermore, the Council **calls upon** all relevant stakeholders to extend their support in this regard;

17. **Reiterates** its full support to the African Union High-level Implementation Panel for its efforts to resume negotiations between the parties on the basis of the road map agreement, including facilitating a cessation of hostilities between the Government of Sudan and the Darfur armed movements. The Council **encourages** all parties, despite the recent flare-up of hostilities, to continue to

demonstrate readiness to engage in the quest to find agreement on the cessation of hostilities. The Council **strongly condemns** continued refusal by the Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid to join the mediation process and, once again, **urges** this movement to demonstrate the required spirit of responsibility and **expresses its intention**, should the Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid persist in its current attitude, to impose targeted measures against its leadership and to seek the support of the Security Council to this effect;

18. **Encourages** the Government of Sudan, with the support of the international community, to work towards finding durable solutions for the internally displaced persons in Darfur, on the basis of relevant international humanitarian and human rights law instruments, including the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (the Kampala Convention);

19. **Appeals** to the international community to provide all the necessary support to the Government of Sudan, including financial support, in its peacebuilding efforts in Darfur, in particular in socioeconomic recovery and development, the setting-up of the rule of law institutions and the establishment of the institutional and legal frameworks to address issues of land and the management of resources;

20. **Requests** the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, working with international partners, to explore the possibility of convening a pledging conference to generate resources, to assist the Government of Sudan with critical post-conflict and reconstruction projects that would assist in averting a relapse into conflict in Darfur, before the end of the first year of the commencement of UNAMID withdrawal;

21. **Strongly condemns** all hostile actions and attacks against UNAMID personnel and assets, as well as against humanitarian organizations and their staff, and **urges** the Government of Sudan to spare no efforts toward's arresting and prosecuting all perpetrators of these criminal acts;

22. **Decides** to extend, for a further period of 12 months, the mandate of UNAMID, as defined in communiqué PSC/PR/Comm.(LXXIX) of its 79th meeting, held on 22 June 2007, and in Security Council resolution 1769 (2007) of 31 July 2007, in line with the recommendations contained in the report of the joint strategic review. The Council **requests** the Security Council to do the same;

23. **Requests** the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the United Nations and UNAMID, to provide quarterly assessments of the implementation process of the reconfiguration of UNAMID military and police components and the evolution of the situation on the ground, in order to enable the Council to provide guidance as necessary;

24. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.